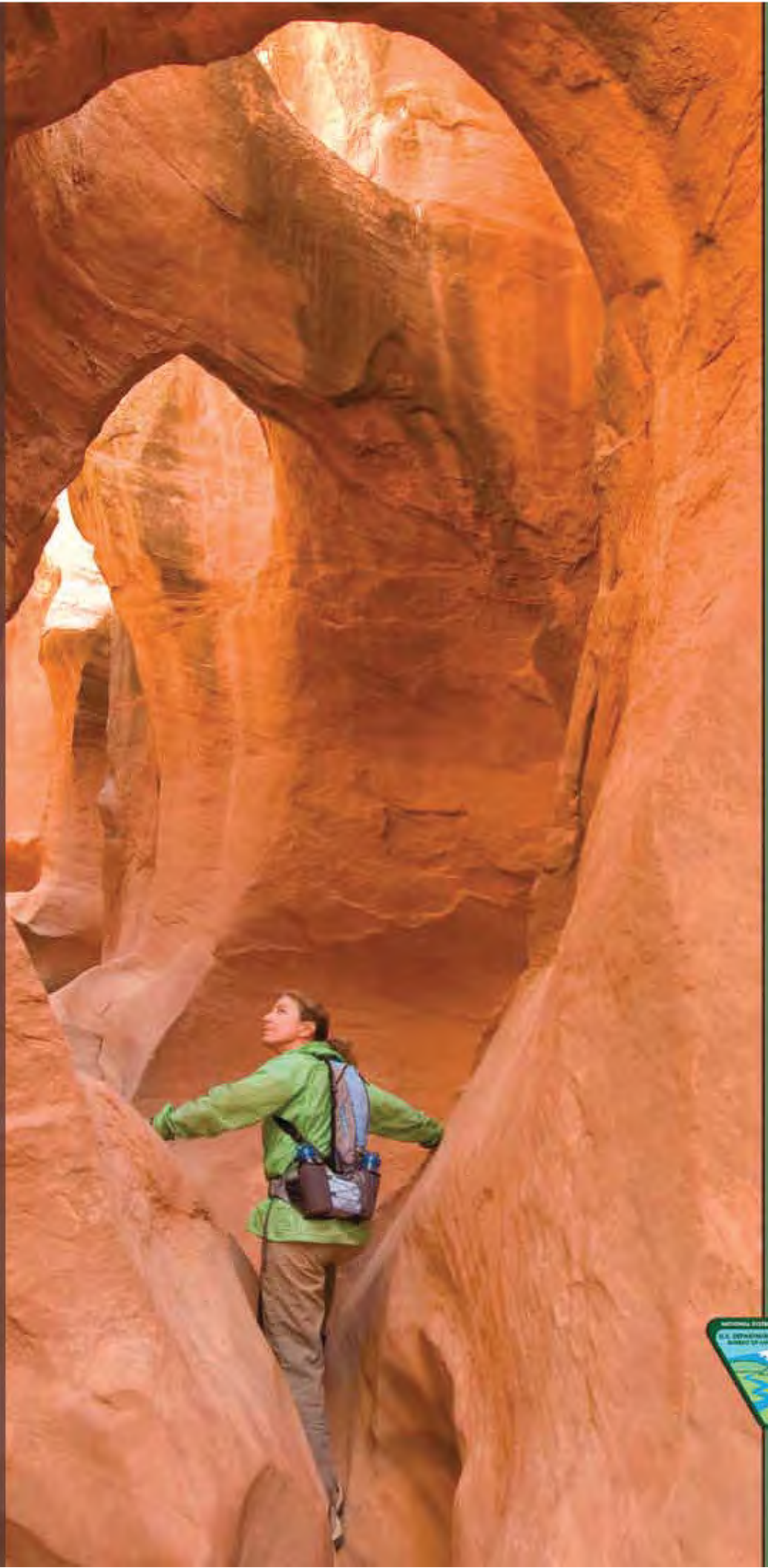
BLM

The

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

15-Year Strategy

2010–2025



An Overview

Keep close to Nature's heart . . .
and break clear away, once in a while, and
climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.

JOHN MUIR,
AMERICAN NATURALIST AND AUTHOR

HEADWATERS FOREST RESERVE, CALIFORNIA

WE WILL MANAGE THE NLCS . . .

The 15-year strategy summarized here will direct the course of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). America's newest system of conservation lands was created in June 2000 to conserve, protect, and restore special areas and unique resources. Prized for their cultural, ecological, scientific, educational, wildlife, and aesthetic values, NLCS sites play critical roles in conservation efforts. In BLM Director Bob Abbey's words, "We are at a unique moment in our history where we can tell BLM's story of conservation excellence, in part, through the magnificence of our monuments, rivers, trails and wild country." Under the NLCS strategy, Americans will have enhanced opportunities to care for these lands as well as reap diverse benefits.

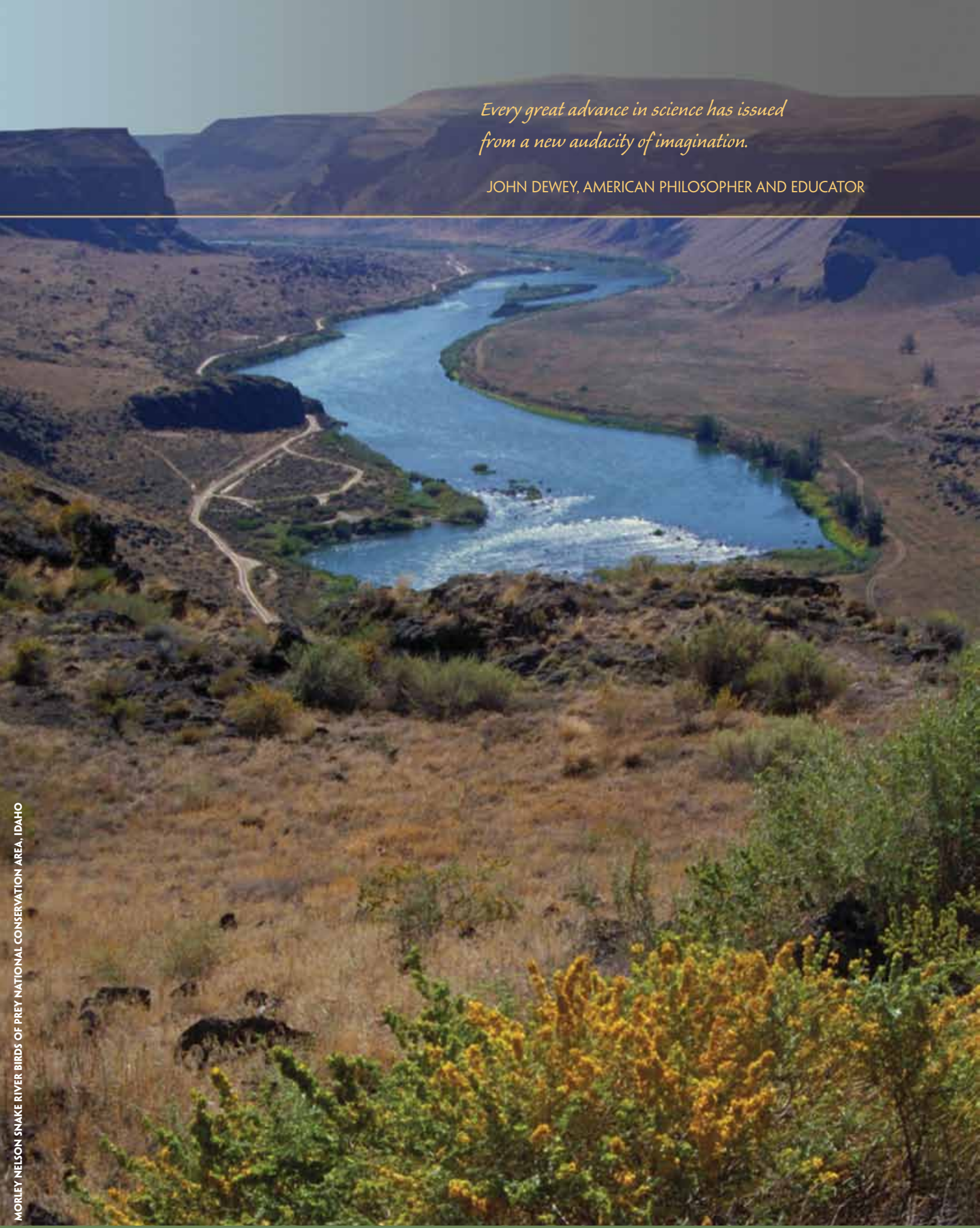
The NLCS is part of the larger portfolio of BLM public lands, which comprise more than 245 million acres, primarily in 12 western states. Managed for multiple uses, America's resource-rich public lands provide our nation with vital commodities and host remarkable landscapes, ecosystems, and natural and cultural resources.

More than 880 units of conservation lands, trails, and waterways—each designated by Congressional act or Presidential proclamation—are now included in the NLCS. The system gained legal permanence in 2009 with the passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act.

The following year, an NLCS 10th-anniversary summit was convened to engage partner organizations and BLM employees in creating a 15-year management blueprint. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, the summit's keynote speaker, signed an Order on BLM management of the NLCS, saying, "The BLM plays a special role in protecting America's great outdoors for the benefit of all Americans—for it is the national conservation lands that contain the forests and canyons that families love to explore, the backcountry where children learn to hunt and fish, and the places that tell the story of our history and our cultures." Results from the summit were combined with other input to produce the new NLCS 15-year strategy. Provided herein is an overview that highlights major themes, goals, and actions.

Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination.

JOHN DEWEY, AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER AND EDUCATOR



MORLEY NELSON SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, IDAHO

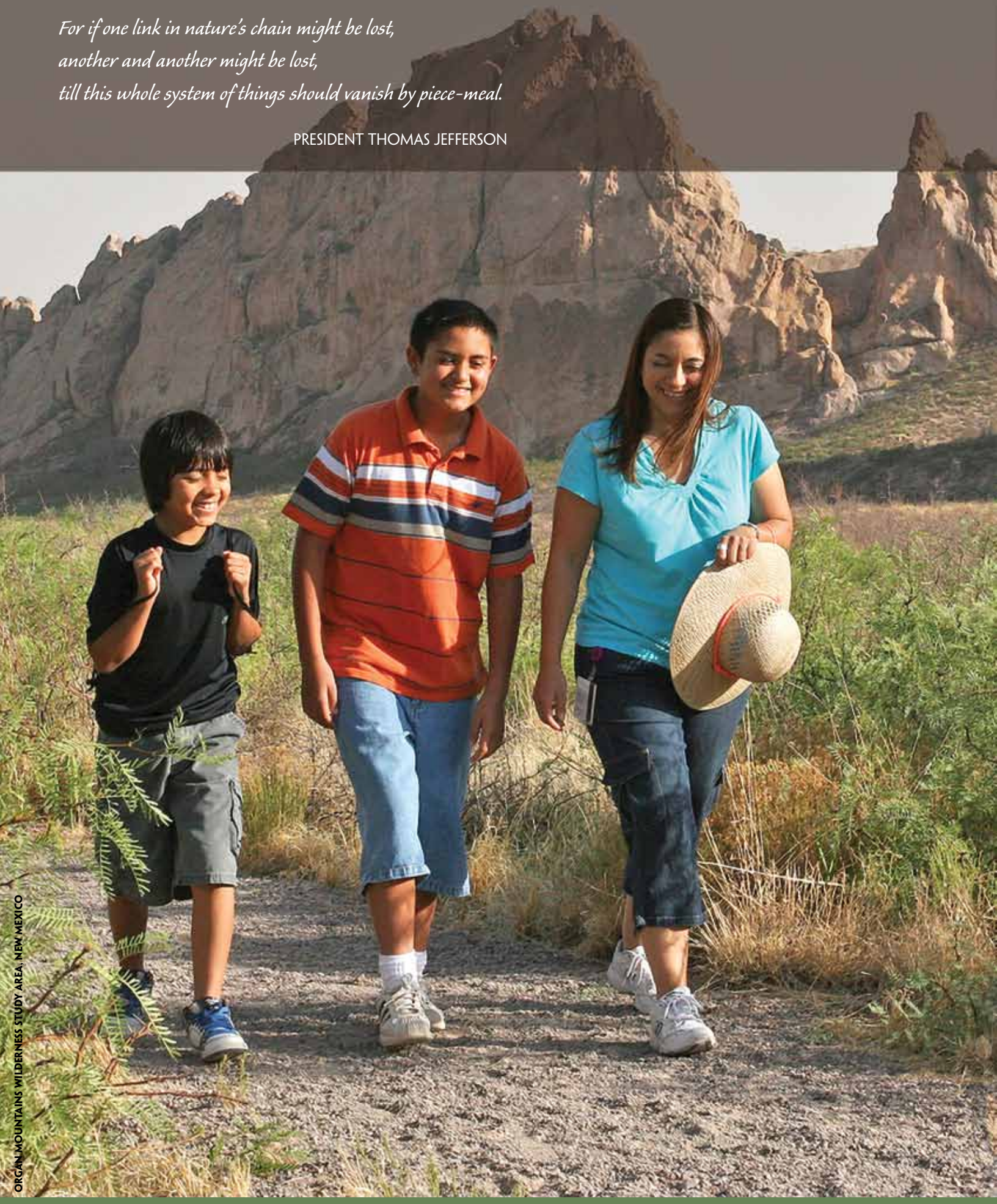
TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, AND RESTORE THESE SPECIAL AREAS . . .

All NLCS units are designated in keeping with an overarching and explicit commitment: to conserve, protect, and restore natural and cultural resources as the prevailing activities within those areas, shaping all other aspects of management. To provide for uses that are compatible with landscape and resource values, NLCS managers will:

- Focus on conservation as the primary consideration in planning for and management of NLCS lands, consistent with designating legislation.
- Develop baseline information on NLCS lands through assessment, inventory, monitoring, evaluation, and scientific study.
- Base planning and decisionmaking on a scientific foundation using next-generation management tools.
- Promote the NLCS as an outdoor laboratory and demonstration center for new and innovative management and business processes.
- Provide for compatible uses consistent with the legislation designating each unit and in collaboration with surrounding communities and interest groups.
- Plan and manage NLCS facilities with an eye to protecting resources, serving the public, and supporting local communities.

For if one link in nature's chain might be lost,
another and another might be lost,
till this whole system of things should vanish by piece-meal.

PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON



ORGAN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA, NEW MEXICO

ACROSS LANDSCAPE BOUNDARIES . . .

Since NLCS units are intermingled with other BLM lands as well as lands managed by other entities, these units must be managed in the context of larger landscapes. To fully integrate NLCS lands with other BLM public lands, collaborate with local communities and interest groups, and establish connections across jurisdictional boundaries, NLCS managers will:

- Employ an ecosystem-based approach to manage NLCS lands in the context of surrounding landscapes.
- Engage in cross-jurisdictional, community-based, landscape-level planning and management.
- Consult with stakeholders, tribes, the U.S. Congress, and other Federal and State agencies to identify long-term management actions that will contribute to the ecological health of the larger landscape.
- Adopt a community-based approach to deliver recreational services that are consistent with the landscape character, resource values, and the socioeconomic goals of the local community.

In the long history of humankind
(and animal kind, too)
those who learned to collaborate and
improvise most effectively have prevailed.

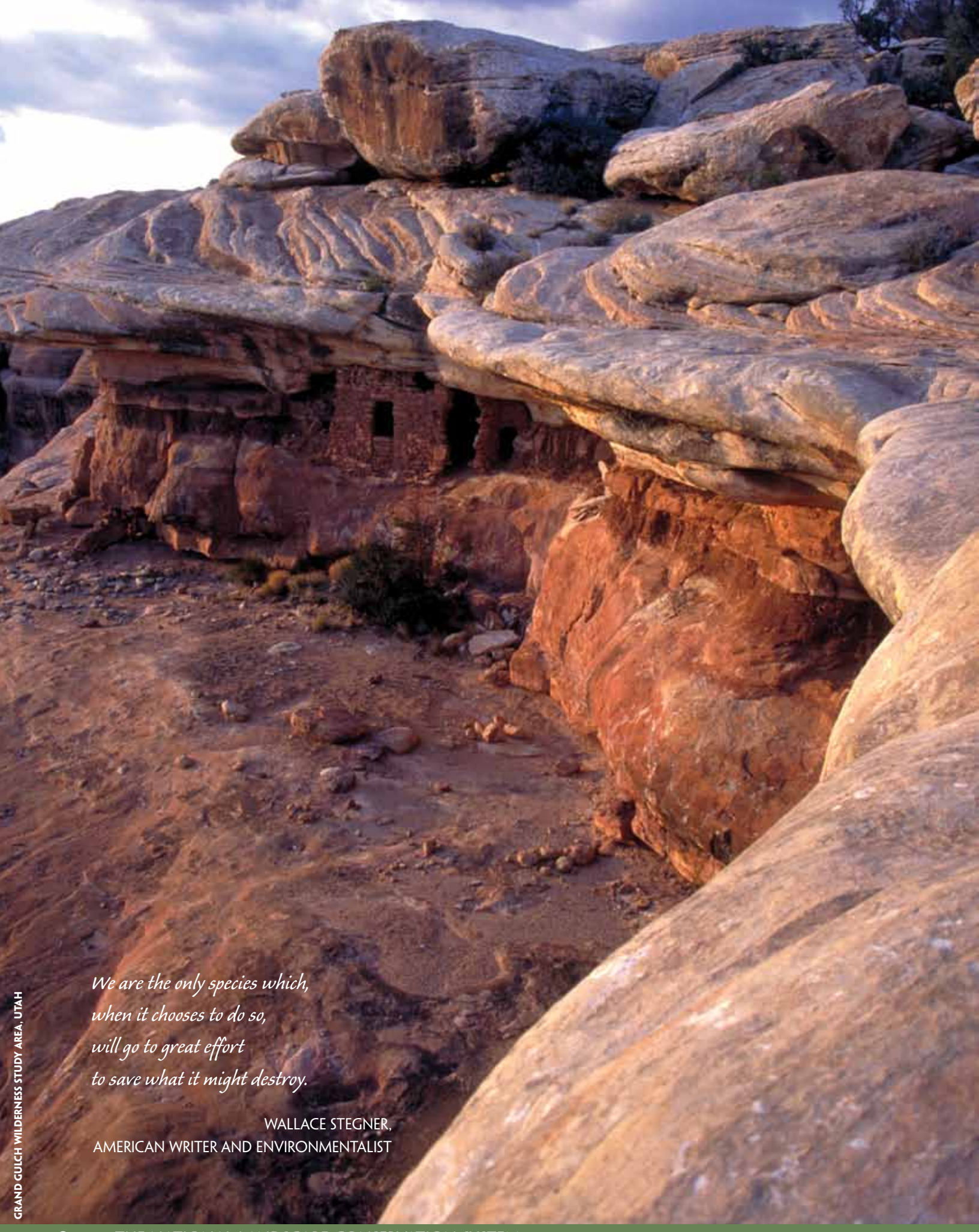
CHARLES DARWIN, ENGLISH NATURALIST

FORT STANTON-SNOWY RIVER CAVE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, NEW MEXICO

TOGETHER WITH PARTNERS . . .

Shared stewardship of public lands and support from communities are critically important to the realization of NLCS objectives. To connect diverse groups of people, interests, and organizations and "tell the NLCS story," managers will:

- Launch a long-term public awareness initiative about the BLM's NLCS that includes national and local outreach, communications, and media plans.
- Advance and strengthen partnerships throughout the NLCS to facilitate shared stewardship and to advance the relevance of the conservation lands to communities of interest and place.
- Expand the use of volunteers within the NLCS, particularly in data collection and scientific studies.
- Engage the public in conservation lands stewardship through education and interpretation.
- Recruit and retain well-trained youth from diverse backgrounds for entry-level careers, and engage youth in recreation, education, and stewardship on conservation lands.



We are the only species which,
when it chooses to do so,
will go to great effort
to save what it might destroy.

WALLACE STEGNER,
AMERICAN WRITER AND ENVIRONMENTALIST

GRAND GULCH WILDERNESS STUDY AREA, UTAH

WITH A COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE

The NLCS can achieve excellence by building a shared commitment to its mission. To ensure adequate staffing and funding and fully integrate the NLCS with other BLM programs, managers will:

- Improve internal communication and understanding of the NLCS and its potential to enhance the BLM as a whole.
- Cultivate shared responsibility for the conservation mission as an integral part of the BLM's multiple-use, sustained-yield mission.
- Clearly define, understand, and justify staffing needs and organize NLCS areas to operate across many BLM resource programs.
- Ensure that the NLCS budget is aligned and integrated with the priorities of other BLM programs.

The wilderness and the idea of wilderness is one of the permanent homes of the human spirit.

JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH,
AMERICAN WRITER AND NATURALIST

HANDIES PEAK WILDERNESS STUDY AREA, COLORADO

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

LITTLE KNOWN . . .

RUGGEDLY BEAUTIFUL . . .

A GIFT TO AMERICA

AH-SHI-SLE-PAH WILDERNESS STUDY AREA, NEW MEXICO

THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

To view the full NLCS 15-Year Strategy or for additional NLCS information and maps, please visit the NLCS website at *http://www.blm.gov/nlcs.*

Additional copies of this publication are available from:

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